

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**ELIZABETH M. COGGS**

WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE ~ 10TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



**WIS-ENEWS-10**  
**State Representative Elizabeth M. Coggs**  
**NFWL Preparedness Initiative**  
**R U OK (7865) – I M OK (4665)**

Dear Friend,

As we commemorate the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 this week, we have to ask ourselves – what have we done in the last decade to make ourselves better prepared to deal with an unexpected crisis or disaster?

Natural disasters like the tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes we've witnessed in our communities or seen on the news illustrate that we ALL need to do our part and act as our own first responders.

September marks "National Preparedness Month" and I am collaborating with the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL) and the Safe America Foundation to promote local grassroots resiliency.

NFWL's Disaster Relief and Preparedness Task Force has joined forces with Safe America Foundation's "Be prepared, not scared <sup>TM</sup>" initiative to get 1 million Americans to practice what they would do in and after an emergency.

This year, the focus is on getting Americans to conduct "texting drills." It's easy and involves two steps. The first step is pre-determining who you would contact in any emergency and pre-loading their cell numbers into your phone. The second step is conducting a text drill using safety shorthand developed by Safe America. For example, parents can initiate the drill by sending all their children the message 'R U OK' (7865). The person receiving the text message replies with the short 'I M OK' (4665).

For millions of Americans, the idea that they can rely on texting in an emergency is a new concept. But, it's a practical consideration since, during 9/11 as well as the recent earthquake on the east coast; wireless networks that were unable to transmit a cell voice call could STILL send and receive a text message.

The first responders who serve in our community are our heroes, but they can't get this enormous job done without our help. Let's ease their burden by taking common sense steps to prepare our family, friends, employees and neighbors. Visit the Safe America website ([safeamericaprepared.org](http://safeamericaprepared.org)) and "pledge to drill." Taking 5 minutes to "drill" today could save you hours of distress as you try to reach loved ones during a disaster.

**FAITH, HOPE AND HARMONY**

State Capitol: P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708-8952 • (608) 266-0960 • Toll-free: (888) 534-0010 • FAX: (608) 282-3610  
E-mail: [Rep.Coggs@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Rep.Coggs@legis.wi.gov) • Web: <http://coggs.assembly.wi.gov>

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Please watch me in a thirty second commercial for National Preparedness Months  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g53Ql7sOXhs>

Sincerely,

State Representative Elizabeth M Coggs

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